



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/031,151	01/14/2002	Aaron Hal Dinwiddie	RCA 89642	6303

7590

08/01/2006

Joseph S Tripoli  
Thomson Multimedia Licensing Inc  
PO Box 5312  
Princeton, NJ 08543-5312

EXAMINER
----------

YIMAM, HARUN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2623

DATE MAILED: 08/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/031,151

Applicant(s)

DINWIDDIE ET AL.

Examiner

Harun M. Yimam

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**Note to Applicant**

Art Units 2611, 2614 and 2617 have changed to 2623. Please make all future correspondence indicate the new designation 2623.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 04/18/2006 has been entered.

***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments filed 05/08/06 with respect to claims 1 – 17 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-<sup>6,7</sup>~~4~~ are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knowles (US 2003/0079227) in view of Kim (US 6,519,412).

Considering claim 1, Knowles discloses an apparatus for integrating passwords for accessing programming (paragraph 0073, lines 1-12) from multiple programming providers (see LOCL 701 and HBO2 201 in figure 3), the apparatus comprising: a memory (paragraph 0072, lines 11-12) for storing a first password (password for a young child—paragraph 0072, lines 1-5) associated with a first programming provider (an IPG that is particular to a **first programming provider**—paragraph 0071, line 1 - paragraph 0074, line 9. For example, the young child can access LOCL 701 but not HBO2 201); temporary memory (7 in figure 1B shows memory to temporarily store input data, i.e. password—paragraph 0072, lines 11-12 and paragraph 0077, lines 7-12) for temporarily storing said first password to allow access to programming from said first programming provider (LOCL 701 but not HBO); and means for replacing said first password in said temporary storage with said second password to enable said

apparatus to allow access to programming from said first and second programming providers (LOCL 701 **and** HBO. The said means is a **microprocessor (10 in figure 1B)** that associates the user profile information with the password stored in memory to determine the level of access control for that particular user—paragraph 0072, lines 5-16. Therefore, when the parents enter their master password and the access level is at its highest, they have access to programming from said first and second programming providers without the need to enter their child's password limited to a particular programming provider—paragraph 0071, line 1 - paragraph 0074, line 9).

Knowles discloses a memory (paragraph 0072, lines 11-12) for storing a second password (older teenager's password—paragraph 0072, lines 1-4) associated with a second programming provider (an IPG that is specific to a **second programming, i.e., HBO**—paragraph 0073, line 1 - paragraph 0074, line 9).

However, Knowles fails to explicitly disclose a removable memory for storing said second password.

In analogous art, Kim discloses a removable memory (i.e. a smart card) for storing password data for viewing restriction purposes (column 4, lines 42-61 and column 6, lines 26-47).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Knowles' system to include a removable memory, as taught by Kim, for the benefit of avoiding the need for a "password input menu" by using

a removable memory (i.e. a smart card) that has the password data therein, so as to input the password data by a card reader (column 7, lines 57-62).

Claim 2 is met by the combination Knowles and Kim. In particular, Knowles discloses that the first and second password each comprise a master password (There is a master password that can override both the said first and second passwords for every user associated with each IPG—paragraph 0071, line 1 - paragraph 0072, line 12).

Claim 3 is met by the combination of Knowles and Kim. In particular, Knowles discloses that the first and second password each further comprises a sub-profile password (paragraph 0072, lines 1-16).

Claim 4 is met by the combination Knowles and Kim. In particular, Kim discloses that the said removable memory is a smart card (column 6, lines 26-47).

Claim 6 is met by the combination Knowles and Kim. In particular, Knowles discloses that the first and second password each comprise a master password (There is a master password that can override both the said first and second passwords for every user associated with each IPG—paragraph 0071, line 1 - paragraph 0072, line 12).

Claim 7 is met by the combination of Knowles and Kim. In particular, Knowles discloses that the first and second password each further comprises a sub-profile password (paragraph 0072, lines 1-16).

5. Claims 5, 8, 9 and <sup>13, 14-17</sup>12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim (US 6,519,412) in view of Knowles (US 2003/0079227).

Considering claim 5, Kim discloses determining whether an access card is coupled to an integrated television system; if said access card is coupled to the integrated television system, processing a first password (master password) received from said access card to access programming from said first and second programming providers; and

if said access card is not coupled to the integrated television system, processing a second password (restricted access level) to access programming from one of the first and second programming providers (paragraph 0104, line 5 – paragraph 0105, line 11).

Kim fails to disclose that the programming is accessed from first and second programming providers.

In analogous art, Knowles discloses that the programming is accessed from first (see LOCL 701 in figure 3) and second (see HBO2 201 in figure 3) programming providers.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Kim' system to include accessing programming from multiple programming providers, as taught by Knowles, for the benefit of easily distinguishing the access level of programming for a user with a particular programming provider (paragraph 0071, line 1 – paragraph 0074, line 9).

Claim 8 is met by the combination Knowles and Kim. In particular, Knowles discloses writing said second password (child's password with limited access level) to temporary storage for use when a first password (master password) is not received; and overwriting said second password in temporary storage with said first password when said first password is received (The passwords are stored in their respective memory location and when the master password is received, it overrides the other passwords so as to acquire the highest access level—paragraph 0072, lines 1-16 and paragraph 0104, line 5 – paragraph 0105, line 11).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Knowles' system to include an access card associated with the first password, as taught by Kim, for the benefit of avoiding the need for a



“password input menu” by using an access card (i.e. a smart card) that has the password data therein, so as to input the password data by a card reader (Kim—column 7, lines 57-62).

Claim 9 is met by the combination of Kim and Knowles. In particular, Kim discloses validating said access card before using said first password (column 1, lines 53-60 and column 6, lines 42-47).

Considering claim 12, it is rejected for the same reasons as claims 1 and 5.

Claim 13 is met by the combination of Knowles and Kim. In particular, Knowles discloses that the first and second password each comprise a master password (There is a master password that can override both the said first and second passwords for every user associated with each IPG—paragraph 0071, line 1 – paragraph 0072, line 12).

Claim 14 is met by the combination of Knowles and Kim. In particular, Knowles discloses that the first and second password each further comprises a sub-profile password (paragraph 0072, lines 1-16).

Claim 15 is met by the combination of Kim and Knowles. In particular, Kim discloses that the access card comprises a smart card (Kim—column 6, lines 26-47).

Claims 16 and 17 are met by the combination of Knowles and Kim. In particular, Knowles discloses that the programming associated with the first and second programming providers are received via different types of transmission media. (Some of the channels may be just local channels (see LOCL 701 in figure 3) i.e., in case of a UHF receiver for example (paragraph 0053, lines 1-10), which receives terrestrially broadcast television signals, and the others may be extended channels (see HBO 2 201 and HBO3 202 in figure 3) modulated from satellite broadcast television signals originating from satellite providers (paragraph 0103, lines 1-6).

6. Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knowles (US 2003/0079227) in view of Kim (US 6,519,412), as applied to claims 1 and 5 above, and further in view of Schaffner (US 6,104,908).

Considering claims 10 and 11, Knowles and Kim disclose that the programming is accessed from first (Knowles—see LOCL 701 in figure 3) and second (Knowles—see HBO2 201 in figure 3) programming providers.

Knowles and Kim fail to disclose an antenna for receiving signals from the programming providers.

In analogous art, Schaffner discloses a first antenna (a satellite signal receiving antenna—16 in figure 1) for receiving signals from a first programming provider (a satellite broadcast—column 2, lines 30-32 and column 3, lines 31-35); and a second antenna (VHF/UHF antenna—18 in figure 1) for receiving signals from the second programming provider (terrestrially (wire-based) broadcast—column 2, lines 32-36 and column 3, lines 35-37).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combined system of Knowles and Kim to include a first and second antennas, as taught by Schaffner, for the benefit of receiving broadcast television signals from diverse program providers (Schaffner—column 3, lines 31-37).


***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harun M. Yimam whose telephone number is 571-272-7260. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Grant can be reached on 571-272-7294. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HMY

  
**CHRISTOPHER GRANT**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**